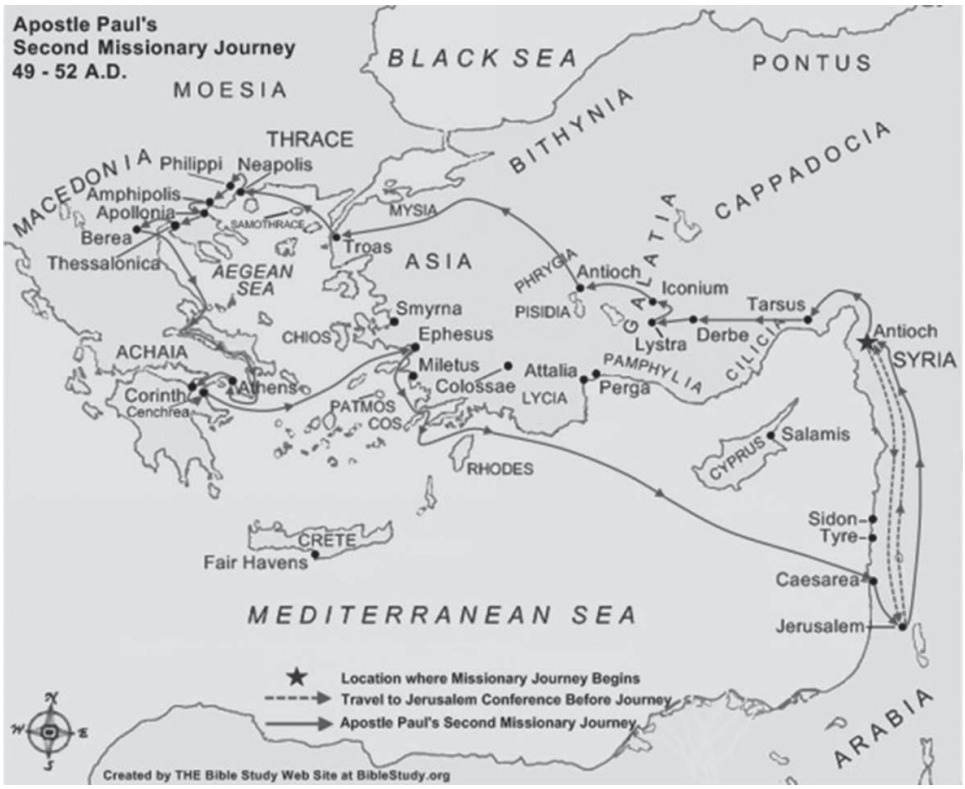
1 Thessalonians (Part-2)
Verse by verse book study
September 10, 2023

Quick review of few key points from Part-1 of this sermon series.



1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 3

NOT SHAKEN BY THESE AFFLICTIONS

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone,
2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.
4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.
5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

Vs 2: Timothy was just a young man part of Paul's ministry team for about a year at this time. Yet Paul introduces him as a brother, minister of God and co-worker. He places honor on his team member.

God can use others to establish (make us firm) and encourage (come alongside to strengthen) us in our walk of faith.

Vs 3: As believers we will face afflictions (persecutions) but we must resolve not to let these shake us (move us out of a place of faith).

Vs 4-5: Paul had already warned that these believers would face persecution. The devil takes advantage of the persecutions to get people to give up their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE LIVE, IF YOU STAND

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8
6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you—
7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.
8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

Vs 8: Reveals Paul's heart as a minister of God. His life, joy and purpose were tied in to seeing others grow and stand firm in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

PERFECT WHAT IS LACKING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-11
9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,
10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.

While Paul commended these believers for their faith, love and hope in chapter 1, (1:5), he also recognizes that they still need to grow and mature in their faith. And for this he longs to be back amongst them, ministering to them once again to continue to build them up in their walk of faith.

It is a good thing for us to recognize that we need to perfect what is lacking in our own faith-life, faith-walk personally. Only as we recognize this, will we make the effort to work on nurturing ourselves spiritually.

Vs 11: Paul looked to God to make the way for him to visit the Thessalonians.

We observed earlier in Chapter 2 (2:18) where Paul mentioned that the devil hindered him from going to the Thessalonians, at that time.

What we know is that during his third missionary journey (AD 53-68), Paul went to Macedonia and to Achaia multiple times (Acts 19:21, Acts 20:1-4)). He also sent Timothy and Erastus to minister in Macedonia (Acts 19:22). He was able to nurture and raise leaders from Macedonia who became part of his apostolic team. Acts 19:29 mentions "**Gaius** and **Aristarchus**, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions". Acts 20:4 mentions "Sopater of Berea…**Aristarchus** and **Secundus** of the Thessalonians".

When satan seems to hinder us from entering a certain region or territory sometimes we do not engage with the enemy but continue to extend the Kingdom of God in other regions. Later, God leads us back into those territories, where we previously faced opposition, to see great advancement for the Kingdom of God.

Two important lessons:
We must choose our battles. Not all battles are worth fighting. (Mentioned in Part-1)
There is a timing for victory.

INCREASE AND ABOUND

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,
13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

We now see Paul beginning to mention some important themes he will be addressing in his letter: for the believers to keep growing in their love for one another, for the believers to walk in holiness and a continuing reminder about the coming of the Lord Jesus with His saints (those who have died and gone to be with the Lord).

Paul begins with the heart. We need to keep our heart clean and free from all sin in holiness (clean and set apart) before God.

Why should we walk in love increasingly? So that our hearts can be established (made firm) in purity and holiness before God. To walk in holiness, we need to walk in love.

SANCTIFICATON AND HONOR

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;
2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.
3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;
4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,
5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.
7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.
8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

This is a very strong passage of Scripture emphasizing the importance of holiness.

Vs 1: The apostle Paul taught them how to walk (live) and how to please God or live in a way pleasing to God. Now he encourages them to keep increasing in this.

Vs 2: He reminds them of the things he had instructed (commanded) them. He first reminds them about living in holiness (sanctification) and honor.

Vs 3: Sanctification means to live a life that is 'set apart' or kept aside as holy unto God. God's will for us to live set apart to Him. This includes abstaining from anything that is sexually immoral.

Any expression of sexual gratification that is against God's original design for sex and sexuality is sexual immorality.

Vs 4: We must control, manage, and keep our body and sexual appetites in control.

(Amplified Bible Classic) That each one of you should know how to possess (control, manage) his own body in consecration (purity, separated from things profane) and honor,

(Amplified Bible) that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor [being available for God's purpose and separated from things profane]

(The Passion Translation) Yes, each of you must guard your sexual purity with holiness and dignity,

Vs 5: We do not yield our bodies to fulfill lustful evil passions.

Vs 6: We must not defraud (to take advantage of another out of covetousness) or violate another brother (or sister) in this matter of sexual purity.
Sexual immorality is a sin against one's own body (1 Corinthians 6:18). Both people engaged in sexual immorality are violating their own body.

In the case of adultery, the people physically involved outside of their own marriage are violating each other, and they are violating or cheating on their own spouse.
In the case of sex outside of marriage, the two individuals are violating their own selves.

If we do, God Himself will avenge, those who have been wronged.

Vs 7: We have been called to holiness. This is our calling and we choose to follow God in it.

Vs 8: If we choose to walk in sexual impurity, we are not rejecting just a human idea or human instruction. We are rejecting God Himself.

INCREASE MORE AND MORE

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10
9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;
10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

The next commandment the apostle Paul reminds believers of is about brotherly love. He has repeated this often.

When faced with hate from their persecutors, Paul is encouraging the believers to increase more and more in love, amongst themselves, as well as to those outside.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,
12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

The next set of commandments Paul instructs believers is about everyday life and conduct. He highlights five actions that he has previously instructed these new believers in:

- Lead a quiet life - *live quietly and peacefully.*
- Mind your own business - *mind your own affairs.*
- Work with your own hands
- Walk properly conduct yourselves well towards non-Christians - *bear yourselves becomingly and be correct and honorable and command the respect of the outside world.*
- Let your life demonstrate God's faithful provision – "*being dependent on nobody [self-supporting] and having need of nothing"* (AB). *"live an honorable life, influencing others and commanding respect of even the unbelievers."* (TPT)

THE COMING OF THE LORD

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

This is one of the clearest passages describing the coming of the Lord and the rapture of the church.

The word “rapture” does not appear in the English Bible. The word rapture is not in the ancient Greek text, but comes from the Latin Vulgate, which translates the phrase *'caught up together'* in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 with '*simul rapiemur*', from which we get our English word rapture.

simul rapiemur = simultaneously caught up, simultaneously raptured

Pastors, please expound on vs 13-18.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME
Minister as the Spirit leads

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *1 Thessalonians chapters 3 and 4*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Based on 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 we stated to walk in holiness, we must walk in love. Discuss this further.

2, Discuss 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 in depth while considering (A)how do we practice this commandment and call to holiness in our world today, given all the messaging in society on sexuality (B)how can we encourage the next generation of believers to stand firm in this call to holiness and sexual purity.

3, The command in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 highlights five essential practices as believers. Discuss how we practice each of these in our world today:
- *Lead a quiet life.*
- *Mind your own business.*
- *Work with your own hands.*
- *Walk properly conduct yourselves well towards non-Christians.*
- *Let your life demonstrate God's faithful provision.*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

This sermon series is a verse-by-verse study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the first two epistles written by the apostle Paul. In Part-2 of this sermon series we cover chapters 3 and 4 of 1 Thessalonians. We discuss our call to holiness, starting by holiness being established in our hearts and being extended into our daily lives through sexual purity, abounding love, proper conduct and hope filled living.

KEYWORDS

1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible 2020, (NASB) Copyright © by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.

Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886)